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ABSTRACT

The immense changes wrought by the Internet pose many questions and dilemmas for today's librarians. The author's take on the Internet is one of an ever-evolving beast. The six chapters of this book take the reader from mastering the nature of the beast--including a discussion of online searching pitfalls and other more general hazards--to the intricacies of Internet ethics (i.e., copyright issues, privacy rights, spam), a listing of some of the best reference resources available online for librarians, and a final look at anticipating the future of the Internet. Chapter 1 gives an overview of the capabilities of the Internet, and Chapter 2 addresses some of the traps, pitfalls, hazards, problems, and concerns connected with Internet access. Chapter 3 examines the impact of the Internet on libraries. Chapter 4 looks at some of the multitudinous legal and ethical challenges that necessarily accompany Internet provision to patrons in libraries. Chapter 5 explores some of the subject content of the Web from a librarian's point of view, featuring selected lists of favorite, useful search engines and Web sites which libraries may find helpful in performing client-based research and in supplying information to the public. Chapter 6 discusses the problems of archiving the Internet's past and planning for an uncertain future. A selected glossary of Internet-related terminology, an alphabetical index of Web sites, and a bibliography are appended. Includes an index. (Contains 332 references.) (AEF)

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